

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 SOE-02 EPA-04 IO-14
NSF-02 DOE-11 INT-05 /143 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6423

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, CA

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON GREAT LAKES FUNDING

1. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON GREAT LAKES FUNDING CUTS, THE FIRST SIGNIFICANT PRESS COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS, APPEARED IN THE FEB 21 OTTAWA CITIZEN:

2. BEGIN TEXT: ONCE AGAIN THE UNITED STATES APPEARS TO BE ON THE VERGE OF CUTTING BACK ON ITS COMMITMENT TO CLEAN UP ITS SIDE OF THE GREAT LAKES.

3. U.S. SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON RECENTLY MADE PUBLIC A MEMO FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY THAT SAID THAT ONLY HALF THE FUNDS NEEDED FOR THE EPA GREAT LAKES PROGRAMS IN 1979 (\$5.5 MILLION OUT OF AN \$11.1 MILLION REQUEST) WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE.

4. ACCORDING TO THE MEMO, POLLUTION ABATEMENT PROGRAMS WILL SUFFER MOST, UNDERGOING A CUT OF \$4 MILLION FROM \$7.5 MILLION TO \$3.5 MILLION. THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HAS PREDICTED A "SERIOUS AND EXTENSIVE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS WITH CANADA" IF THE CUTS ARE NOT
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REVERSED.

5. SO FAR THERE HASN'T BEEN A PEEP OUT OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. IT'S ABOUT TIME THERE WAS.

6. RICHARD NIXON CUT BACK GREAT LAKES CLEAN-UP FUNDS AFTER PROMISING ON A VISIT TO OTTAWA SIX YEARS AGO THAT

THE U.S. WOULD DO ITS PART TO REVERSE THE POLLUTION IN
THE LARGEST INLAND WATER SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.

7. THERE HAVE BEEN IMPROVEMENTS ON THE U.S. SIDE, BUT NOT
AS GREAT AS THOSE MADE BY CANADA. IF PRESIDENT CARTER
IS TRULY INTERESTED IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH CANADA, THIS IS
NOT THE TIME TO CUT ANTI-POLLUTION SPENDING ON THE GREAT
LAKES. END TEXT. ENDERS

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